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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph 0023 on page 7 with the following amended paragraph:

[0023] Zamecnik et al. have used oligonucleotides (ONs) specifically targeted to the reverse transcriptase primer site and to splice donor/acceptor sites (Zamecnik, et al (1986) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 83:4143-) (Goodchild & Zamecnik (1989) US Pat 4,806,463).

Please replace the paragraphs 0032 and 0034 on page 8 with the following amended paragraphs:

[0032] Qi et al. (*Zhonghua Shi Yan He Lin Chuang Bing Du Xue Za Zhi* (2000)14:253-256) have reported testing antisense phosphorothioate oligonucleotides (PS-ODNs) in Coxsackie virus B3.

[0034] Guanosine/thymidine or guanosine-rich phosphorothioate oligodeoxynucleotides (GT-PS-ODNs) have been reported to have antiviral activity. The article stated that "several different PS-containing GT-rich ODNs (B106-140, I100-12, and G106-57) all 26 or 27 nt in length, were just as effective at reducing HIV-2 titers as GT-rich ODNs consisting of 36 (B106-96, B106-97) or 45 nt (Table 4)." (Fennewald et al., Antiviral Res. (1995) 26:37-54).

Please replace the paragraph 0044 on page 10 with the following amended paragraph:

[0044] Rein et al. (US Pat. 6,316,190) reported a GT rich ON decoy linked to a fusion partner and binding to the HIV nucleocapsid, which can be used as an antiviral compound. Similarly, Campbell et al. (Campbell et al (1999) J. Virol. 73: 2270-2279) reported phosphodiester oligodeoxynucleotide (PO-ODN) with a TGTGT motif binding specifically to the nucleocapsid of HIV but with no references to an antiviral activity.

Please the paragraph 0057 on page 13 with the following amended paragraph:

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[0057] As used herein in connection with antiviral action of a material, the phrase "non-sequence complementary mode of action" indicates that the mechanism by which the material exhibits an antiviral effect is not due to hybridization of complementary nucleic acid sequences, e.g., an antisense effect. More specifically, a non-sequence complementary mode of action also means that the anti-viral activity occurs principally by a sequence independent mode of action. Conversely, a "sequence complementary mode of action" means that the antiviral effect of a material involves hybridization of complementary nucleic acid sequences. Thus, indicating that the antiviral activity of a material is "not primarily due to a sequence complementary mode of action" means that the antiviral activity of the oligonucleotide satisfies at least one of the 4 tests provided herein (see Example, 10) for determining whether the antiviral activity is "not primarily due to a sequence complementary mode of action". In particular embodiments, the oligonucleotide satisfies test 1, test 2, test 3, or test 4; the oligonucleotide satisfies a combination of two of the tests, i.e., tests 1 & 2; tests 1 & 3; tests 1 & 4, tests 2 & 3, tests 2 & 4, or tests 3 & 4; the oligonucleotide satisfies a combination of 3 of the tests, i.e., tests 1, 2, and 3, tests 1, 2, and 4, tests 1, 3, and 4, or tests 2, 3, and 4; the oligonucleotide satisfies all of tests 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Please replace the title of the section following paragraph 0143 on page 33 with the following amended title:

Selected abbreviations

Please replace the titles following paragraph 0151 and 0152 on page 36 with the following titles:

Broad spectrum antiviral activity

Conclusions on broad spectrum antiviral activity

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Please replace the title following paragraph 0155 on page 37 with the following title:

Requirement for antiviral activity

Please replace the title following paragraph 0198 on page 50 with the following title:

Effect of PS-ODN sequence composition on lysate

Please replace the title preceding paragraph 0204 on page 52 with the following title:

High affinity oligonucleotides